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Weinberger says U.S. funding Soviet defense budget

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Soviet efforts to obtain Western technology "are far greater than previously believed" and have helped to produce Soviet jet fighters, space-based chemical laser weapons and a reusable space shuttle, Pentagon officials said yesterday.

"In recent years, the United States government has learned of a massive, well-organized campaign by the Soviet Union to acquire Western technology, illegally and legally, for its weapons and military equipment projects," the Pentagon said in a report.

The report is the culmination of a study on technology transfers conducted by 22 U.S. agencies under the

direction of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"What it really means is that we are subsidizing the military buildup of the Soviet Union," said Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

He said the United States and its allies have tried to halt the flow of technology to the Soviets "so the people we have in uniform will not have to face on the battlefield weapons developed [from] our own technology."

Mr. Weinberger said Soviet acquisitions of Western technology have been obtained legally and illegally from high-technology man-

ufacturers in the United States and Europe.

Soviet weapons and military-related systems that use technology obtained from the West include:

- fire control radar on the MiG-29 Fulcrum tactical jet fighter;
- a reusable space shuttle;
- a new torpedo for Soviet submarines;
- laser-guided artillery;

- space-based chemical laser weapons; and

- microelectronics and computer acquisitions.

Mr. Weinberger said the technology acquisition effort is run by four agencies of the Soviet Union, including the Ministry of Trade, the State Committee for Science and Technology and the political and military intelligence services — the KGB and GRU, respectively.

"It employs thousands of Warsaw Pact intelligence officers, scientists, diplomats, military personnel, espionage agents and it makes use of unscrupulous Western collaborators," Mr. Weinberger said.

The report, "Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology" provides more details on Soviet technology acquisition than a previous report three years ago. It was released by the Pentagon under the auspices of the inter-agency Technology Transfer Intelligence Committee.

Using detailed charts and tables compiled from information supplied by Soviet and East bloc defectors

through U.S. and allied intelligence services, the report charges that the GRU has become the leading overall collector of technology for the Soviets, surpassing the efforts of the KGB.

"To me the biggest surprise [in the report] was that the GRU was more successful, more active than we had thought," said Stephen Bryen, deputy undersecretary for trade security. Previously, officials believed the KGB worked more actively to obtain Western technology, he said.

"Most of them are scientifically trained and secondly they are deposited in some interesting places — [the Soviet airline] Aeroflot and [the Soviet merchant marine] Morflot to name two," said Mr. Bryen of GRU agents.

Both the KGB and GRU together, however, supplied 90 percent of the "most significant acquisitions," the report states.

Mr. Bryen said he also was surprised that the Soviets place a higher value than previously assumed on trade secrets and patented technology — material that generally is unclassified.

"They find this kind of bedtime reading exceedingly important for how they structure their programs," Mr. Bryen said.

About 60 percent of all the technology obtained by the Soviets originated in the United States, the report states.

Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Perle said the report is part of the Reagan administration's ongoing five-year effort to stem the flow of Western technology that can be applied to Soviet weapons systems.

Asked if the effort has been successful, Mr. Perle said, "We've certainly impeded the flow, but we have not stemmed it."